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ABSTRACT

Libraries exist for the benefit of the mind, but they have practical problems coping with the acquisition, storage, and handling of the documents and records with which they deal. Any change in technology that would have a significant effect on the methods available for these procedures could have important consequences for library service. The purpose of this book is to suggest some general bases for planning or to provide a general framework for thinking about future library services in light of changing technologies. Nine chapters address the following: (1) an introduction to the purpose of libraries, foundations of library service, types of libraries, and library users; (2) characteristics of the paper library, its strengths, its weaknesses, and attempts to remedy or compensate for the limitations of the technology of paper; (3) the automated library; (4) implications of the automation of bibliographies and of libraries' technical operations; (5) the rise of electronic documents and the nature of the electronic library; (6) consequences of the rise of the electronic library for collection development; (7) the needs and changing environment of library users; (8) management considerations; and (9) summary and conclusions related to technological change. A list of sources is appended, including electronic sources, bibliographies, reviews, specialized journals, and background material. (JLB)

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